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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/593,999	06/14/2000	Ronald Scot Young	3011-1030	8206

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EXAMINER

CHIN, RANDALL E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/593,999

Applicant(s)

YOUNG, RONALD SCOT

Examiner

Randall Chin

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2005.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-23 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-12 and 16-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15 and 23 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claim 18 is being withdrawn from consideration since claim 18 recites that the yarn substitute is formed into a **plurality of ribbons**, not disclosed in the elected species of Figs. 1 and 2. Claims 19-22 are also being withdrawn since they depend on claim 18.

Claim 16 is being withdrawn from consideration since claim 16 recites that there are a **plurality of elongate ribbons** with a distal end and proximal end, **each proximal end being connected to a fixture and each distal end being free**, not disclosed in the elected species of Figs. 1 and 2. Claim 17 is also being withdrawn since it depends on claim 16.

### *Claim Objections*

2. Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 18, line 2, change "yard" to --yarn--.

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 13-15 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Newell '527.

As for claim 13, the patent to Newell '527 teaches in Fig. 1 a yarn substitute comprising outer layers (i.e., just top and bottom sides of the casing 12) of inexpensive waste material, and an inner layer 18A of inexpensive waste material, said outer and inner layers connected together along central or substantially central portion at stitching 20 of the outer layers to maintain the inner layer between the outer layers and which prevents or limits movement of the inner layer relative to the outer layer. The recitation "inexpensive" is merely a relative term of no patentable moment.

As for claim 14, Newell '527 teaches an elongate ribbon comprising a strip of absorbent outer non-woven fabric 12 (col. 4, lines 42-57) at least "folded double"8 (in the same manner as Applicant's Fig. 2 shows) longitudinally and filled with an absorbent inner waste 18A from non-woven materials (col. 2, lines 42-57) to form a "sandwich structure," the outer fabric layers and inner filling connected together along a central or substantially central portion of the outer layers at stitching 20 to maintain the inner filling between the outer layers and to prevent or limit movement of the inner filling relative to the outer layers.

As for claim 15, Newell '527 teaches in Fig. 1 an elongate ribbon comprising outer strips (i.e., just top and bottom sides of the casing 12) of non-woven fabric (col. 4, lines 42-57) layered with inner filling waste18A from non-woven materials (col. 2, lines 42-57) to form a "sandwich structure," said outer strips and inner filling being bound together along a central or substantially central portion of the outer strips at stitching 20

to maintain the inner filling between the outer strips and to prevent or limit movement of the inner filling relative to the outer strips.

As for claim 23, the waste material of both the inner and outer layers is Absorbent (col. 4, lines 5-9).

### ***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the Examiner should be directed to Randall Chin whose telephone number is

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(571) 272-1270. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday and every other Friday.

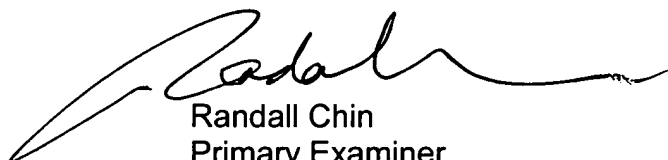
If attempts to reach the Examiner are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Kim, can be reached at (571) 272-1142. The number for Technology Center 1700 is (571) 272-1700.

The central fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



R. Chin



Randall Chin  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1744